the Lions' Pride

Of Saint Leo University

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Today

Study Aboard in England

Discover one student's experience as he spends a year finding out what England has to offer: wonderful pubs, great food, wet weather, and nice people. Page 3

Increased Alcohol Tax to Curb Drinking

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Comedian Bill Burr on campus

Discussing topics from Oprah to the chandeliers in The Lion's Den, comedian Bill Burr performed at Marmion/Snyder Hall. Page 7

The cast is putting the finishing touches on *The Importance of Being Earnest*

BY SARAH FROELICH
Staff Writer for The Lions' Pride

SAINT LEO - I think Lady Bracknell's last line sums it all up best: "You are all displaying signs of excessive *triviality*!"

This quote is taken from *The Importance of Being Earnest*, which was written in 1895 by Oscar Wilde. It's one of those plays you just have to see to get.

"It's about upper-class British twits, and they spend their time eating and drinking and trying to get married, which they do. You might say it's about exploding the Victorian values," said director Dr. Charles Grimes.

Earnest is funny, as long as you don't put a serious spin on it. The actors are enjoying portraying the play's characters and displaying their "excessive triviality." Anyone familiar with the Victorian era would recognize as just the aristocratic way.

"[My character] is a snob," said senior Rachel Blackwood, who plays Gwendolyn Fairfax. "For some reason I kind of like her; I kind of understand her, I guess."

In addition to the snobbish attitudes, there is also the touching. The second act has a lot of physical contact in it. During the first couple of rehearsals, the cast balked at the hugging and the kissing and the lovey-dovey mush.

Dr. Grimes pointed out that the cast would have to look more natural. He said things like, "What are you, Puritans?" and, "Could you hug each other like it's not going to hurt?"

This elicited two words from freshman Dea Leahy, who portrays Cecily Cardew. "Hugs suck!"

Leahy wasn't the only cast member uncomfortable with the touching.

"I'm a bit reserved with people I don't know very well," said Blackwood. "I think I'll be able to get over it in time [for opening night]."

Photograph by Sarah Froelich

Freshman Sidney Carlan and senior Rachel Blackwood practice a scene from *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

More difficult than the touching is making the dialect in which the characters speak seem believable. To help with this, the cast's accent coach Bridget Bean, who hails from England, gave the cast a small talk about annunciating and stressing particular syllables.

"This whole play is all about out-twitting each other, and part of that is how you say your words," Bean told them. "Articulation is important."

Despite the troubles of hugs and accents, the cast enjoys working on their roles and putting the pieces together. With a small (but not *too* small) cast, splitting up into pairs or trios to memorize lines is easy. Dr. Grimes can work with a scene on the stage with only three people, and the others can still read through their lines with a partner in the same room without disrupting the action on the stage. The cast seems to enjoy working with a little group as opposed to a large roomful of people.

"I'm glad that it's a bigger ensemble cast this time," said Blackwood. "I like the experience with that many people… working as a team. My favorite part is the cast party afterwards because we all get together and spend Dr. Grimes' money, and it's a lot of fun."

The Importance of Being Earnest is making great progress. It will be performed at Selby Auditorium on the following dates and times: Friday, October 24, 7:30 pm; Saturday, October 25, 2:30 pm and 8:00 pm; Sunday, October 26, 1:30 pm; Monday, October 27, 8 pm.

Opinions

EDITORIAL

Safety issues arise with new parking rules

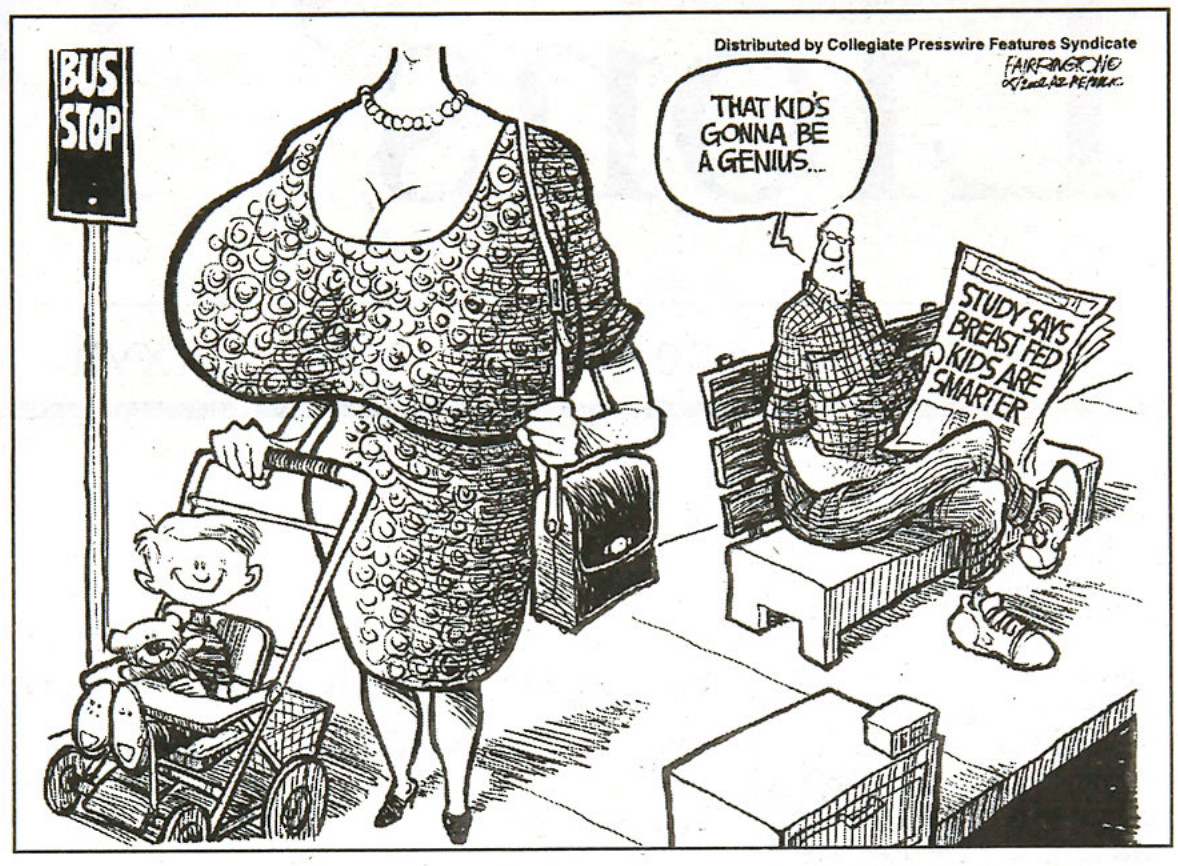
BY ELLIE KALATHAKIS
Special to The Lions' Pride

SAINT LEO - Imagine a girl in her late teens getting ready to leave the library. As she steps outside, she realizes that the sun is gone, and now she has to walk to her dorm room in the dark. To some people this may not seem like such a big problem, but put yourself in that girl's place. As a girl who is about to embark on a journey across a campus all alone in the dark, the fear of having to take the chance of walking by herself sets in right away. She could have driven to the library; however, no students are allowed to park near the library because a new campus rule only allows students to park in certain areas. This rule is not only inconvenient, but unsafe.

Depending on where you live, you're only allowed to park in certain areas, which can be inconvenient. This is a big problem because there are four hundred more students on campus and also students who commute, so many time you are unable don't find parking in the few spaces where you are allowed to park. This causes students to get tickets, which they most likely can't afford. What the school should have done was add more spots instead of taking a number of them out. The campus has plenty of room for parking; and if more parking spaces were added, it would make things more convenient for all students, faculty, and staff.

Even more important than being inconvenient, is it unsafe? The biggest issue is students are not allowed to park in the parking lot in front of the library. I believe that making students walk back and forth, especially in the dark, puts them in danger, and I, being a young female, can relate to being frightened about having to walk all the way back to my dorm at night. The students who this really affects though are the freshmen. The walk back to their dorm is about a mile and through the woods.

Several steps can be taken to avoid all these problems. For instance, to make things safer, the administration could make the parking lot in front of the library accessible to students after five o'clock in the evening. Most faculty and staff are usually gone by that time of day, and this would keep students from having to walk through the campus at night. Another thing that can be done is to create separate parking lots for students who commute so they don't take up spaces for students who live on campus. The biggest step that can be taken though is to just take away the rule that students can only park in the designated area according to where they live. I believe if these steps are taken, then the campus would be safer and more convenient for all students.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BUS STOP
THAT KID'S GONNA BE A GENIUS...
STUDY SAYS BREAST FED KIDS ARE SMARTER

EDITORIAL

Students need to manage money

STAFF EDITORIAL
The BG News (Bowling Green State U.)

(U-WIRE) BOWLING GREEN, Ohio — The University should add one more course to their curriculum — Credit Cards 101: How to manage credit cards without getting yourself into debt.

This is not to say that all students who own credit cards will/do go into debt. However, the fact is that there are many college students who do get themselves into trouble when using plastic to pay for most of their purchases.

Some students do not know the added items that go into using their credit cards, such as: Penalty fees, interest rates and changes in rates.

Most students do not realize that if they do not pay off their charges for the month on their credit cards, the amount that is left unpaid is not just carried over to the next months balance, but it has extra fees attached to it.

The best idea for a college student is not to get a credit card until they are financially responsible and prove to be. Many times students may think they are able to handle a credit card and may think; I will not go into debt, I know how to manage my money. However, it is easier than one might think. Once debt occurs, it is hard to pay off.

A good idea for students is to use a debit card or a checking account for their purchases. This way, the money that you are able to use is limited to the amount of funds that are available in your account. If a student uses a debit card they are able to keep track of how much money they are spending after each purchase. With a credit card students are not always able to keep a record of how much they have spend and are likely to exceed the amount of money they have to pay it off.

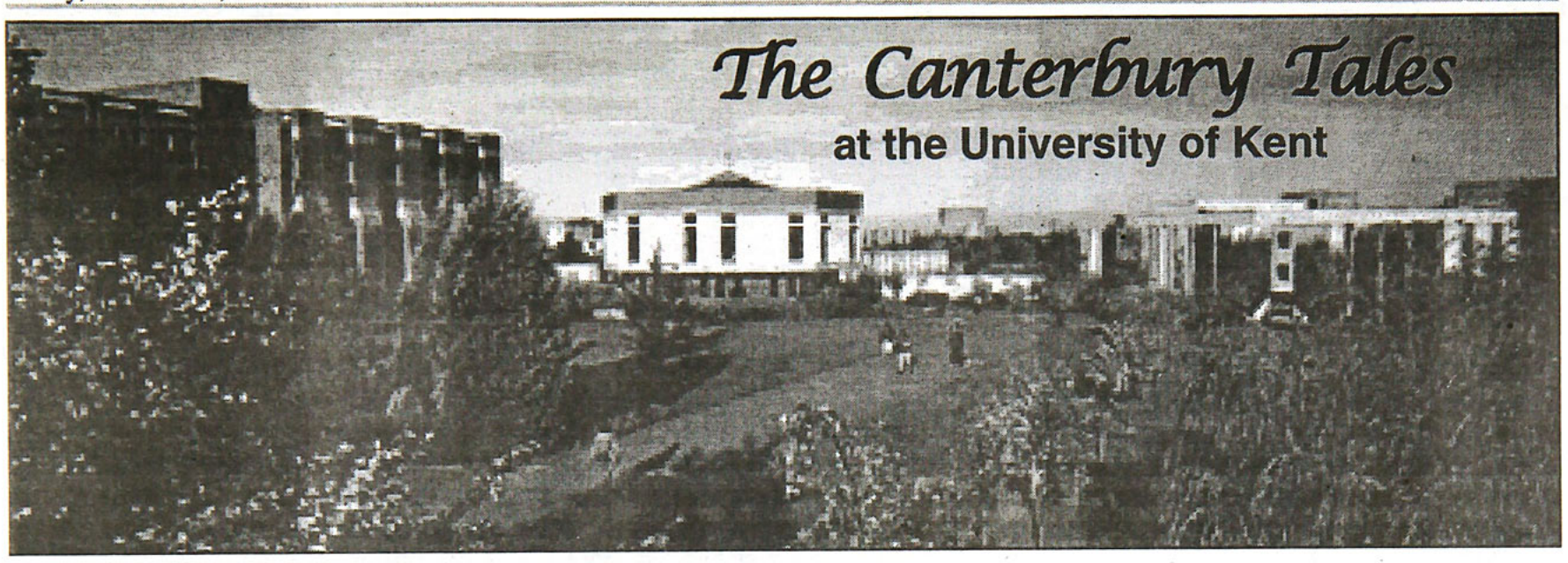
This leads to the next point, which is — if you don't have the money to pay off your credit card balance for the month do not make the purchases. One of the worst mindsets of students who have credit cards can be: I'll just pay it off the next month or I'll get some money somehow to pay it off. If you don't have the money to pay off the bill then obviously you don't need to purchase that new stereo, or that new CD you have been wanting.

A good hint of advice would be that if you know you are not going to have the money to pay for it later, don't buy it now. Just wait till you have enough money where you are able to get it.

Credit cards may be one of the worst items to give a college student, especially in their first years. However, students need to learn that we are in college now and we have to start acting like adults, which also means learning how to be financially responsible. Credit cards can be good, but they can also be trouble.

WRITE HERE

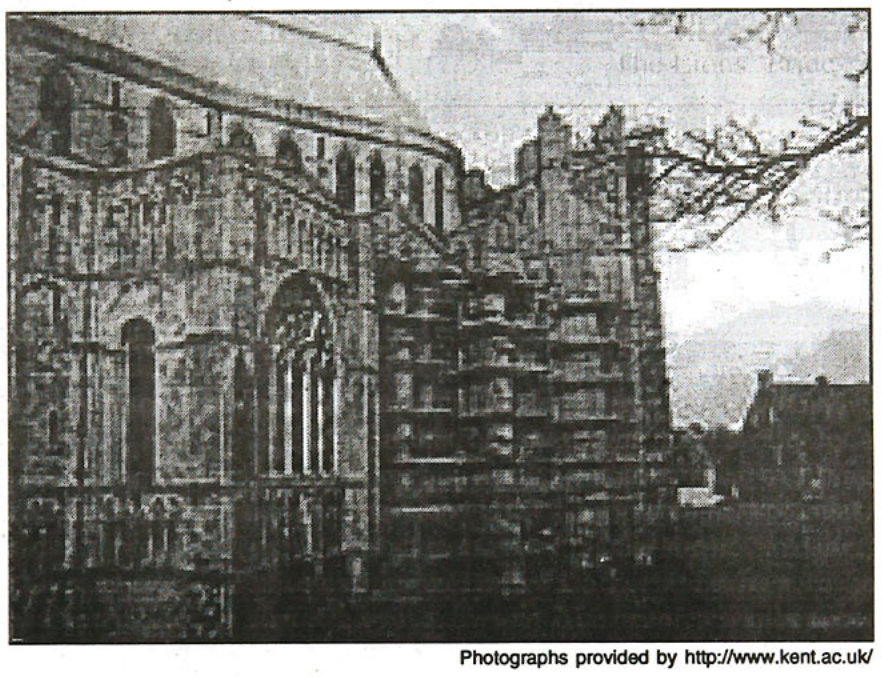
The Lions' Pride newsroom is located in portable #4, which is on the west side of St. Edward's Hall. Our phone number is (352) 588-8195.
Send letters to the editor to lions.pride@saintleo.edu
Letters to the editor must be submitted with student's name, year, and major. Faculty and staff members must include rank and department.
Please include a phone number (not for publication) so we can verify authorship.
All letters are subject to editing.
The Lions' Pride reserves the right not to publish any letter or column.



BY BRYAN McCABE
Staff Writer for The Lions' Pride

I spent all of last year at the University of Kent, in Canterbury, England. I went as part of the study abroad program at Saint Leo. Canterbury is a very scenic and historical city about 35 miles south of London. My experience in England with Study Abroad has changed my life, and I will never forget the time I spent there.

My first night in England, the medieval wind caught me, got under my clothes, and chilled my bones. It is the dusty kind of wind that seems to sneak up from behind, like it's coming from the past, or dark alleys I'm afraid to walk through. Then it started drizzling, and the rain made my bones shiver. This feeling of dampness never completely leaves. My clothes were never fully dry, and even if they were, they wouldn't be after I walked to class. The fall in England is very rugged and grey. The house I lived in was small and devoid of any comforts. My room was very plain and small, but I felt there was a certain honor in simplicity. In England, food is very expensive. I became used to eating very small portions. Television is also very expensive, so I did without TV. I read books much of the time. I usually sat in the library, watching the Canterbury Cathedral, out the window, all covered in fog. I took long walks along country paths. I found strange ways of getting places. I took secret little paths



Photographs provided by http://www.kent.ac.uk/

Left to Right: The Canterbury campus at the University of Kent in Canterbury, England; Long walks can be taken along country paths. The Canterbury Cathedral can be seen from the library on campus.

through gardens, graveyards, and under ways (underground paths used to avoid congested intersections and railroad crossings).

I often drank tea in the afternoon, waited for the sun to sink below the trees on the horizon, and then walked down to a pub for supper. I sat in country pubs by warm fires until closing time and walked home along the dusty medieval streets. At night, when the rain blends into fog, everyone becomes a stranger. Moments blur and become untrustworthy. Is this where the dead live?

The past seems alive here, sometimes as much as us. We're all trying to hold onto things that no longer exist. The streets have their own voices. They whisper things we want to remember, sometimes things we wish we could forget. On New Year's Eve, someone told me I was sitting in the pub Charles Dickens lived above. But what does that mean? And what about all the old suits of armor sitting in empty castles? We are always stepping on gravestones, or walking past Roman walls.

Seasons sweep in with the wind; others are ushered out by it. Dust fill the streets, dead leaves say more than Christmas cards. The grass stays green in winter. Trees grey, become ominous, frost blends with air. If it snows, it is always close to rain or fog. One day in winter, my friend Dawn drove me down to a fishing town, and we spent the day sitting on the foggy coast of the English Channel. Then one night, I had a dream I was drowning in that Channel, but no one could see because it was too foggy. I started sleepwalking, and I woke up outside my house, in the rain, screaming. One of my housemates heard me and pulled me back inside.

On Christmas break, I took the train up to Scotland. Trains make me feel alone. They are always passing so conspicuously through towns, through people's lives. And leaving the south of England is like leaving everything modern. The northern countryside is quaint and vacant. Sheep and old churches cover the land.

I never wanted to leave Edinburgh. To have such an attractive city exist in such a rugged location is startling. It's the type of place I can never forget I've been. This is partly because the weather is too rough to let you, and also because of how the city sits on a cliff facing the cruel, but breathtaking. North Sea.

I spent Christmas in London with an English girl named Lucy. London is a city of contradictions. London is uniquely modem and fashionable, but at the same time it is city obsessed with its past. New and old things blend there, as do cultures. Eastern simplicity blends with Western commercialism. Lucy's parents had a dinner party. Lucy's uncle, who is a very talented artist, came and told me about his paintings that he painted in America. Later, we went to Portobello Road in an attempt to buy some antiques, but they were closing by the time we arrived. A few days later, I went to Westminster Abbey and saw all the writers' graves. Then, I saw Buckingham Palace, and Big Ben, and I was ready to leave.

In the spring, it rains every day. The schoolboys are always out playing football, sinking in the mud, singing songs, walking home all muddy. Canterbury is filled with German tourists sneaking across the channel. The flowers bloomed, and the sun came out occasionally. It is strange how transformed the city looked on a sunny day, as if it had different clothes for pleasant weather. I left England for a week and went across France, Germany, and the Netherlands. I was growing tired of traveling and always having to wait for trains, so I went back to England early.

I went back and finished school. The Campus was fairly empty because the freshmen had exams much later than I did, and most of them were still on spring break. The city was too crowded with tourists and school children, and it was unpleasant to spend a day there. I spent most of my time sitting on my front porch writing my papers and enjoying the mild spring weather. I turned in my papers, said goodbye to my friends, and flew home. It seemed like I had been gone a very long time, and yet most things at home remained the same. I felt older and much more experienced. I was glad to be home, but I had to readjust to everything familiar. It was a very strange feeling.

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Upper-class British twits

Photograph by Sarah Froelich

Snobbish attitudes, a lot of physical contact, and making the British dialect in which the characters speak seem believable are all part of the learning process for the cast of The Importance of Being Earnest, which starts October 24 in Selby Auditorium.

Report calls for increased alcohol tax to curb teenage drinking

BY PRESTON GISCH
Cavalier Daily (U. Virginia)

(U-WIRE) CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — A National Academy of Sciences report released last week proposed an increase in the excise tax on alcohol, specifically beer, as a way to reduce underage drinking.

According to the report, underage drinking costs tax payers $53 billion a year. Drinking-related traffic accidents for minors alone cost $19 billion nationwide.

The report suggests that increasing the cost of beer by raising excise taxes would effectively reduce beer consumption by minors.

The report also blames the entertainment industry for glorifying alcohol consumption to minors and calls for the creation of an impartial foundation funded by the alcohol industry to monitor underage drinking.

There has been widespread response to the report from non-profit foundations and the alcohol industry.

"When you're a college student, you don't have much money," said Carter Hill, chair of the Virginia chapter of MADD. "If [beer] costs more, [college students] might not be able to buy as much."

Citing a Journal of Health Economics study, Hill claimed a direct correlation exists between beer prices and underage drinking.

"For every 1 percent increase in beer price, there is a 1.4 percent decrease in 18-20 year old traffic fatalities," he said.

Federal alcohol taxes were last raised in 1991, when the excise tax was doubled, resulting in a 9 percent drop in beer sales in Virginia, according to Dennis Gallagher, President of the Virginia Beer Wholesalers Association.

"When taxes are increased, sales go down," Gallagher said.

He added that discussion of alcohol issues is beneficial, but questioned the legitimacy of the report.

"This report seems to have been done without any serious thought [as] to what the alcohol industry has done in response," he said.

Gallagher also took issue with the composition of the reporting body.

"If the deck was truly stacked [against the alcohol industry] then you have a serious credibility problem," he said.

The federal excise tax on beer is currently 33 cents per 6-pack, according to the Beer Institute, the national trade association for the malt beverage industry.

The Commonwealth utilizes an uncommon method of taxing beer depending on container size, adding around 16 cents per 6-pack. Virginia's tax on beer is about average compared to other states.

Governor Mark R. Warner received a report Aug. 27 and five legislative recommendations from the Task Force to Combat Driving Under the Influence of Drugs and Alcohol.

Gallagher said he is more interested in the task force's report than the National Academy's study.

The legislative actions resulting from the task force report will more directly affect the beer taxes in Virginia, according to Gallagher.

In response to the proposition of increased beer taxes, Gallagher voiced an opinion similar to that of other alcohol industry officials.

"To try to engineer a social problem out of existence [through taxation] is unfair to people who use a product responsibly," he said.

Some Statistics

1. A recent Gallup survey shows that 81% of Americans believe that alcohol is too easily accessible to youth today.
2. A recent American Medical Association poll states that 85% of parents believe that binge drinking (5 or more glasses of beer at one sitting), is a serious threat to their children, and 80% of parents say the cheap cost of beer and promotions like happy hour contribute to excessive college drinking.
3. Alcohol is the #1 drug problem among young people, and beer is their alcohol of choice. There are more than 1.1 billion cans of beer consumed annually by underage drinkers.
4. According to the U.S, Department of Justice, 73% of high school seniors have used alcohol this year, while 50% have used within the last month.
5. Lowering the price of beer will make it more affordable to underage drinkers, who are especially price-sensitive. Economists and the National Bureau of Economic Research have estimated that the 1991 beer tax increase saves 600 young lives each year in reduced drunk driving crashes.
6. In 1999 2,238 young people between the ages of 15-20 lost their lives in alcohol related crashes.

Information courtesy of http://www.texanestandingtall.com/action%20items.html

New colors planned for $20 bill

BY CHRISTIAN NIEDAN
The Pitt News (U Pittsburgh)

(U-WIRE) PITTSBURGH — The era of the greenback is on its way out the door and into oblivion.

The U.S. Treasury Department's Bureau of Engraving and Printing will release a new, peach-colored $20 bill into circulation across the United States on Oct. 9. The new bill will mark the first of a series of color changes planned for U.S. paper currency over the next few years.

With a background of subtly differing peach, blue and green hues, the new bill will be, aside from one abortive attempt in the early 20th century, the first new U.S. paper currency since the Civil War not to feature green as its primary color. Other new features include the absence of a circle around Jackson's portrait and small, yellow 20s in the background of one side.

Money enthusiasts can expect new $50 and $100 bills in 2004 and 2005, respectively, and each will have its own color scheme. Representatives at the Federal Reserve — the nation's central bank — said the bank will try to introduce new currency designs every 7 to 10 years.

The Federal Reserve is considering including $5 and $10 bills in the color changes, as well.

Some changes to American currency haven't turned out well. In the late 1970s, the Treasury Department promoted the Susan B. Anthony silver dollar as the future of U.S. money, touting its "cost saving efficiency" with a massive publicity campaign.

The U.S. Mint rolled out approximately one billion of the silver dollars between 1979 and 1981, but they failed to catch on. Americans tended to ignore the coins and continued doing transactions in cash and, with increasing frequency, electronically.

The most recent series of American paper currency redesigns began in 1996, when a new $100 bill was introduced and followed by new $50, $20, $5 and $10 bills in the following years. In addition to new portraits, those bills featured such innovations as light-sensitive "watermark" images of Andrew Jackson, Abraham Lincoln and others ingrained into the paper itself, vertical security strips, and ink that appears either copper or green, depending the angle of light from which it is viewed.

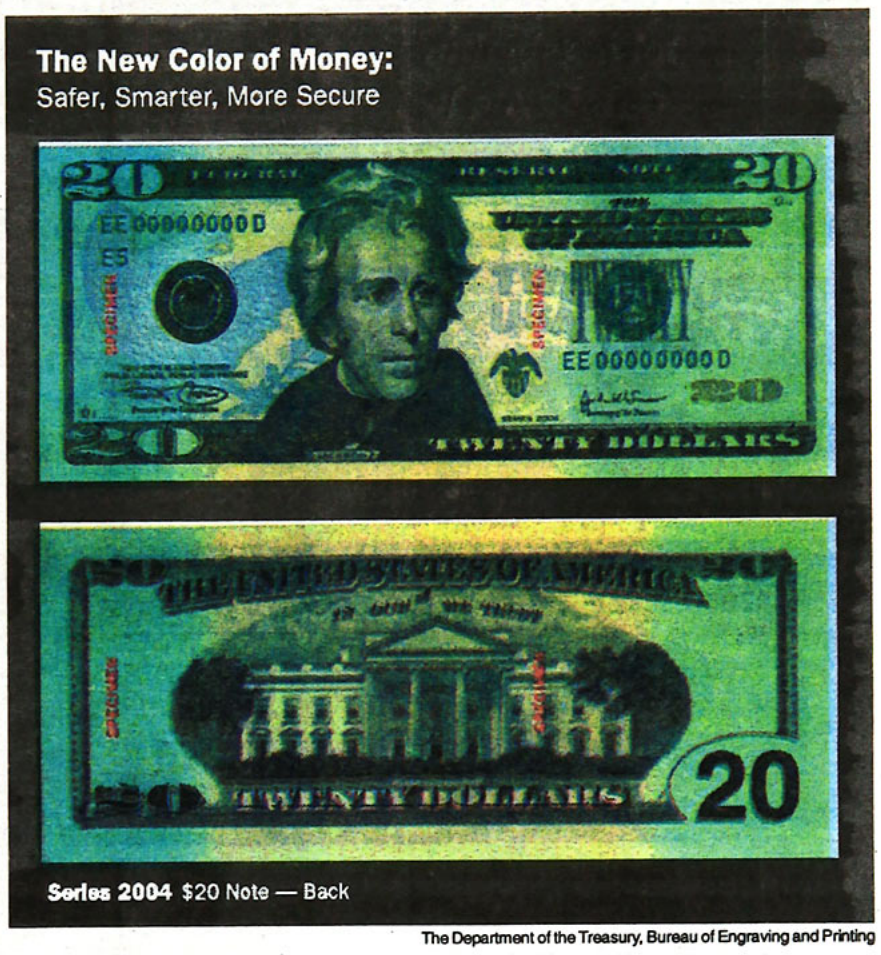
The new bills will continue to use all these features, as well. Though many Americans might react strongly to the new look of currency, the owners of machines dealing in paper money will feel the change most directly. The Treasury Department has been working with the vending, gaming and public transportation industries for more than a year, mailing out more than 7,500 requested changeover information packets to help them adjust machines to accept the new bills.

Since all the planned changes are for denominations of $20 or higher, it isn't expected to be as difficult a problem as might arise if the $1 bill — by far the most commonly used denomination in money machine industries — were altered.

Constant combat with counterfeiters motivated the Federal Reserve to make the changes to American bills, both in 1996 and this year. Those trying to pass off false U.S. currency prefer large denomination bills, worth $20 or more.

During the Revolutionary War, one colonial Pennsylvania note explicitly stated on its front, "To Counterfeit is Death," attesting to the widespread problem of false currency, even several hundred years ago.

By the Civil War years, when an estimated one-third of paper money was counterfeit, the rapidly advancing science of photography created rampant counterfeiting with the use of cameras. Green currency emerged as a result, since no photographic inks existing at the time could recreate the color.



The Department of the Treasury, Bureau of Engraving and Printing

The Secret Service, created by the U. S. treasury in 1865 to combat counterfeiters, also arose during the Civil War era. Their efforts against counterfeiting were so effective that their agency was chosen for the job of guarding leading U.S. government officials. Today, the Secret Service seizes 90 percent of all counterfeit U.S. currency before it enters circulation, according to the agency.

Early in the 20th century, another redesign of the $20 bill emerged briefly. This one featured George Washington and contained yellow, red, green and black ink, with a golden design on the back.

But this bill proved too costly, and green soon returned.

During the 20th century, foreign countries began trading in more valuable U.S. paper currency, instead of their own countries' currencies. The U.S. Treasury estimates that approximately two-thirds of American paper currency in circulation exists outside of the United States — along with a large percentage of counterfeit U.S. money.

Another change to currency technology came with the rise of the "Global Economy" and the increasing reliance of businesses and consumers on electronic transactions, like the use of ATMs and check cards, computer-based shopping and direct-deposit paychecks.

Counterfeiters have rapidly taken advantage of new technologies by turning to digital counterfeiting of currency, which is easier and cheaper than old measures. According to the U.S. Secret Service, less than 1 percent of counterfeit notes in the U.S. in 1995 were digitally made. By 2002, that number had swelled to around 40 percent.

Banks and other government institutions will still accept green currency for the time being, but large-denominated green bills will eventually be phased out of circulation entirely.

Briefs

CCJS hosts conference

from Public Relations

SAINT LEO – The Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies (CCJS), an initiative to promote Catholic and Jewish traditions, hosts its seventh annual conference entitled "Adversity and Loss: Jewish and Catholic Responses" Nov. 9-10 at Saint Leo University in Saint Leo, FL., just north of Tampa.

The two-day event features two renowned keynote presenters, seminars, and small group discussions focusing on remaining faithful in difficult times. Key participants and activities include:

- Rabbi Michael Chernick, Ph.D. – Deutsch professor of Jewish jurisprudence and social justice at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion
- Father Kenneth R. Overberg, S.J., Ph.D. – professor of theology at Xavier University
- Rabbi A. James Rudin and Father Michael Cooper, S.J., S.T.D. – senior religious advisors at the Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies
- Information on the soon-to-be released motion picture "The Passion" by Mel Gibson.
- A pre-conference commemoration of Kristallnacht at the Florida Holocaust Museum.

The cost for the two-day conference is $120 including meals. To attend either Sunday or Monday only, the cost is $65, also inclusive of meals.

The Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies is a continuing collaboration of the American Jewish Committee and Saint Leo University to promote understanding of Catholic and Jewish traditions through conferences, lectures, publications, and other related activities. For additional information on the center or the conference, call (352) 588-8597 or email catholic.jewish.center@saintleo.edu or visit the website www.centerforcatholicjewishstudies.org.

Arts & Entertainment

MOVIES IN REVIEW

From the small screen to the silver screen back to the small screen

BY RACHEL BLACKWOOD
Staff Writer for The Lions' Pride

Fans of Japanese animation or animé are most likely familiar with the sci-fi television show *Cowboy Bebop*, which can be seen on Cartoon Network. This summer, however, *Cowboy Bebop: The Movie* played on select silver screens around the country, including Orlando. It is now available on DVD, produced by Columbia/Tri-Star. Everyone can enjoy the movie, whether they are fans of the television show, fans of animé, or people who have never seen the genre before. The characters are universal, which accounts for its popularity in both Japan and the United States.

The film is directed by Shinichirô Watanabe and Hiroyuki Okiura. The plot of the movie stands on its own but also fits within the television show. The story is about a group of four bounty hunters: Spike Spiegel (voiced by Steve Blum in English and Kôichi Yamadera in Japanese), Jet Black (Beau Billingslea in English and Unshô Ishizuka in Japanese), Faye Valentine (Wendee Lee in English and Megumi Hayashibara in Japanese), and a young girl named Ed (Aoi Tada in Japanese and Melissa Charles in English).

As each episode of the television show was like a miniature movie, the transition from TV to film was simple. The writers of the movie were pleased to get the chance to more fully develop the characters within the film, especially Spike. The group of bounty hunters on the spaceship *Cowboy Bebop* is on Mars when a terrorist attacks and unleashes a deadly virus. Spike and his crew intend to discover the identity of the terrorist and bring him in for the enormous bounty. The plot is exciting, and the movie flows fairly well, with a few slow points here and there. The art of the animation is gorgeous, even more so than the television show; it is smoother because, as the director explained on the DVD, they were able to use more animation cells per second. The action is smooth and clean, the colors are vibrant, and the details breathtaking. The music by renowned composer Yôko Kanno is stunning; if Spike Spiegel is the heart of the movie, the score is its soul. American audiences may be surprised to learn that Kanno is Japanese when they hear the music, which – as Kanno explained on the DVD – is inspired by American forms of music such as blues, jazz, and pop.

The Special Edition DVD provides the audience with the opportunity to watch the film in the original Japanese with English subtitles or listen to English dubbed voices. Amazingly, both casts are equally talented; the film is completely enjoyable either way. The DVD also includes two behind-the-scenes featurettes, four character featurettes, storyboard comparisons (compare the storyboard drawings to the actual film), character biographies, film trailers, a conceptual art gallery, and two music videos. The DVD is easy to navigate, with eye-catching interactive menus.

Rundown of *The Rundown*

The Rock rumbles. Christopher Walken cackles. Seann William Scott shakes things up. *The Rundown* (Columbia) delivers what it promises – good action and good laughs. It's fun and stylish, thanks to director Peter Berg. The action sequences are exciting; they're *Matrix*-inspired, without being *Matrix* clones. The change is refreshing. The humor sprinkled throughout the plot works. Scott and The Rock play well off each other. Christopher Walken is the dry villain, with his unique, understated humor that is a complete contrast to Scott's wacky, Jim Carrey-like antics.

The film chronicles Beck (the Rock), a man with a debt to a mafia-like crime boss named Walker. Beck is Walker's "retrieval expert" or bounty hunter. Walker promises to clear Beck's debt if he retrieves his wayward son, Travis, (Scott) from Brazil. When Beck arrives, he becomes entangled with Hatcher (Walken), the man who owns a goldmine and controls the people and money of the Amazon.

The Rock holds his own as a leading action man; this film will most likely open more script offers for him. It will probably be a while before any serious dramatic roles come his way. But for now, audiences are happy to see him kicking butt outside the wrestling ring. The scenes that tried to develop his character (and other secondary characters) through sentiment and heartstring tugging did not hold together well. Rather than blaming this on The Rock, it seemed to be a weakness in the script written by R.J. Stewart. The bonding scenes were contrived. Fortunately, the bond between The Rock and Scott's characters is true because it is developed through mutual experience.

If you're looking for Oscar-worthy performances, you've got the wrong movie. But if you're looking for exciting action and a good laugh, run down to see *The Rundown*.

Top Box Office Movies

1. *The Rundown* (Columbia)
2. *Under the Tuscan Sun* (Buena Vista)
3. *Underworld* (Screen Gems)
4. *Secondhand Lions* (New Line Cinema)
5. *The Fighting Temptations* (Paramount)

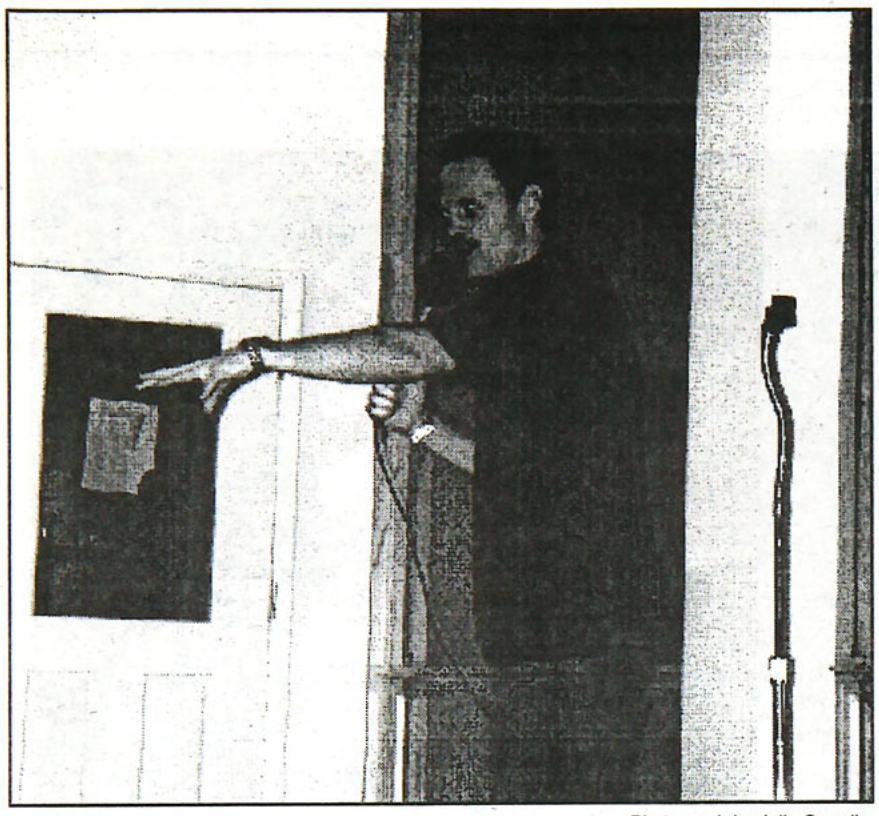
Information courtesy of the Internet Movie Database (http://imdb.com).

MUSIC IN REVIEW

Heavier Things

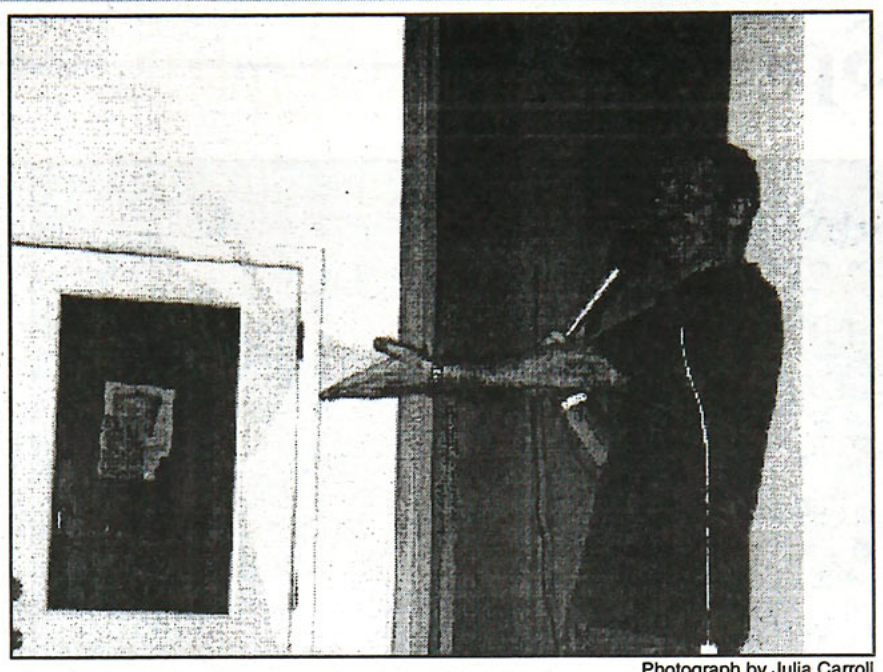
BY JENNIFER REILLY
Staff Writer for The Lions' Pride

Freshmen in college face many changes within their first few months. With Heavier Things, I am not referring to the freshmen "15" but rather, to John Mayer's new CD. Whether or not you're a fan, Mayer's first single, "Bigger Than My Body," hits home with its inspiring lyrics. Through his words and guitar solos Mayer prompts you to soar, and, as we all face the difficulties of class and personal stress, it is nice to believe that, "one day I'll fly/ one day I'll soar/ one day I'll be so damn much more." Mayer's uniqueness is demonstrated throughout his lyrics but also through his album booklet. Songs are color coded, and there are charts describing the mood or characteristic of the songs, where they were written, the suggested target points for the songs, the file size, the tempo, and the key of the song. This original type of packaging can help the reader feel involved in the writing process of the music. Fans are inspired by the music they listen to, and it would be nice to think the artists are inspired by the fans. Dropping on Sept. 9, Heavier Things reached number one on the Billboard charts, marking a personal first for Mayer. His previous albums hadn't reached higher than number eight. After finishing up a summer tour, John is starting up again in Pennsylvania on Oct. 31 and ending up in Illinois on Nov. 28. In his usual style, Mayer plans to surprise his fans with his variations on old and new songs. In a recent report from MTV News, Mayer states, "With a new record, my old new songs are old songs, and so I get to sing those in a new way if I want to, no one's going to get offended if I change the vocal line or something, because I have a feeling that we've all heard it so many times we could probably use it. You know?" He then goes on to say he will not change it completely, just enough to make sure people know he is not a trained monkey and that he can leave the motif for a little bit. Other recent album releases include: Results May Vary- Limp Bizkit, Some Devil- Dave Matthews, Want One- Rufus Wainwright, Unwrapped- Gloria Estefan, North- Elvis Costello, Sacred Love- Sting, Stage Performances 1970-2002- Neil Diamond, Life for Rent- Dido, Best of Bonnie Raitt on Capitol 1989-2003, and Eyes of Alice Cooper- Alice Cooper.

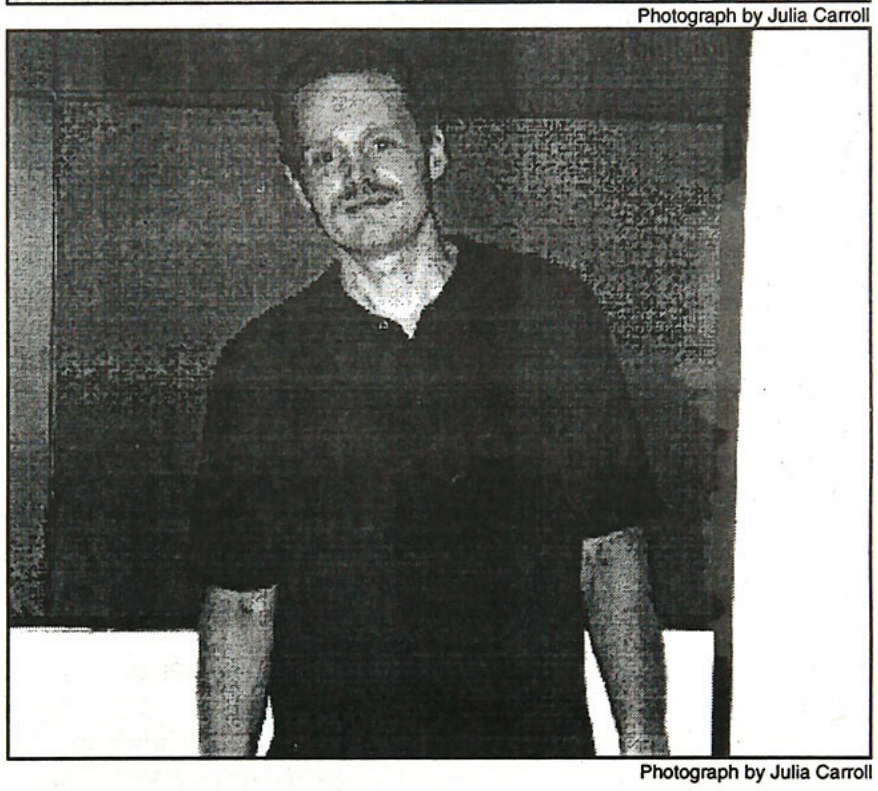


Photograph by Julia Carroll

Comedian Bill Burr, who appears regularly on *Late Night with Conan O'Brian*, performed for students in The Lion's Den of Marmion/Snyder Hall.



Photograph by Julia Carroll



Photograph by Julia Carroll

Burr heats up the crowd

Comedian Bill Burr performs for a crowd in The Lion's Den

BY JULIA CARROLL
Staff Photograph for The Lions' Pride

SAINT LEO - On Monday, September 29, students were sitting on the floor and bringing chairs down from their rooms to see Bill Burr, a rising comedian, perform at The Lion's Den in Marmion/Snyder Hall. His humor, while more than slightly R rated, was a huge hit with the students.

"I thought he was pretty funny," stated freshman Heather Dipietro, who gave up her evening to listen to the rantings of Burr.

Burr covered a variety of topics from the president, to relationships, to his issues with shopping channels, New York subways, and Oprah. He even poked fun at the condition of The Lion's Den, saying, "You all have this sad, green, half of a throw rug, and ugly brown couches. Does this make sense?"

The only real challenge he encountered was the noise from students walking up and down the stairs from the lobby, yet Burr managed fun with it. He made the whole audience stop and stare at the people walking up and down the stairs before he would continue. He was also quite distracted by the thick layer of dirt all over the windows and the chandeliers.

"I like the chandelier, but where did the fancy glass things go?" Burr sarcastically asked the audience.

Within the confines of The Lion's Den, Burr was able to be very involved with the audience. He asked a variety of questions about Saint Leo and students' majors, and he asked one psychology major to analyze him.

"I know I'm crazy, but on what level?" he quizzically questioned the student.

All who went to see the performance thought that it was great.

"I laughed so much it was like an abs work out," commented freshman Lillian Campos after the performance.

Burr offered one valuable piece of advice for all of the college students who attended his performance: "Pick a fun job."

Bill Burr, who currently resides in New York City, has done a large range of work, including performing on the stage of the Apollo Theater in Harlem, where if the audience does not like a performer, they will yell, throw things, or even physically remove him from the stage.

Burr's other work includes a regular spot on *Late Night with Conan O'Brian* and his own Comedy Central special, as well as various appearances on *The Carson Daily Show* and *The Colin Quinn Show*. He was also a part of *Comics Come Home*, which was hosted by Dennis Leary and raised money for the Nealy Foundation.

The Campus Activities Board sponsored Burr's visit to Saint Leo University.

Study: Federal loans fail to cover college expenses

BY CLAUDIA ADRIEN
Independent Florida Alligator (U. Florida)

(U-WIRE) GAINESVILLE, Fla. — More than 80 percent of college students nationwide insist the government inadequately funds student loans, according to a new study.

The Coalition for Better Student Loans found that federal low-interest loan programs do not sufficiently cover college expenses, forcing students to work more hours and incur high-interest debt. Some students are forced to leave school as a result.

The average student carries about $17,000 in debt after graduation, the maximum amount the government allots in loans, the study showed.

The coalition advocates the average loan amount be increased to $30,000 over a four-year period, but some students are not comfortable with that proposal.

"That's just too much money in the hands of a college student," said senior Kathleen Jean.

Students would cover their necessary expenses and use the rest of the money frivolously, contributing to their personal debt, "giving you enough rope to hang yourself," she said.

Jean said she only uses loans to cover her summer expenses.

Junior Rene Nortman couldn't disagree more.

"The government isn't giving nearly enough," she said.

Nortman, an out-of-state student, said she needs loans to cover everything because her parents don't financially support her.

"I already have $20,000 in loan debt,"she said.

State budget shortfalls and a failing stock market have forced universities to raise tuition, said Jim Boyle, president of College Parents for America.

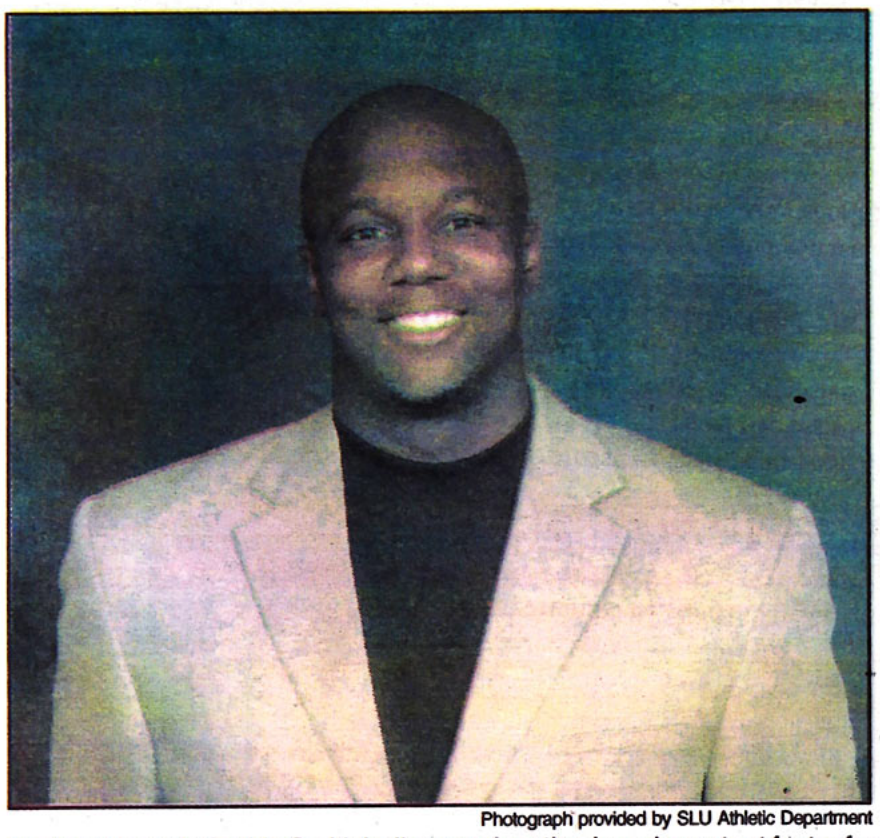
But, the government hasn't increased funding for Stafford Loans and other federal loans in proportion with tuition hikes, he said

"People need more loan money," Boyle said.

Boyle's organization, among several others, joined the coalition to lobby Congress for increased federal student loan funding.

"The laws haven't been changed since 1992," he said.

Sports



Photograph provided by SLU Athletic Department

Photograph provided by SLU Athletic Department

Assistant coach Cedric Smith believes education is an important factor for the basketball program, and assistant coach Abby Charbonneau has confidence in the women's basketball program.

Saint Leo basketball keeps it all in the family

BY SEPTEMBER HARRISON
Staff Writer for The Lions' Pride

SAINT LEO - This year two new additions joined the basketball coaching family.

Assistant coach Cedrick Smith, a former player at the University of South Florida, joins the men's program. And, for the women's program, there is Abby Charbonneau, former player for Providence.

These two former players were each coached by the head coaches they are now working beside. When it came time to find replacement coaches, Mike Madigan and Kerri Reaves picked from the same "family" they came from. They both chose from their old programs where the players and coaches had a team like a real family.

As a standout player at The University of South Florida, Smith had the opportunity to play under, then assistant coach, Madigan.

"The experiences that I had as USF, I wouldn't trade for the world," Smith said. "Playing for coach Madigan was great. He is one of the most moral men I know. I couldn't picture myself coaching with someone better."

Smith knew it would be an exciting opportunity to further his coaching career. And coach Madigan thought that Smith would be a good addition to the Saint Leo program.

"His strengths as a player are what make him a very good coach. And the fact that he's been through what the guys are going through, as far as being a student-athlete, is very important," Madigan said.

A few goals that coach Smith has for the men's program are to be the first Saint Leo basketball team to win the Sunshine State Conference championship. But most importantly, he wants to make sure the entire team eventually graduates.

"Education is most important. And being a coach, it is our job to make sure our players are getting it done in the classrooms as well as on the court," Smith said.

Just as Smith is excited for an upcoming year, so is assistant coach Charbonneau.

Charbonneau graduated from Providence six years ago as an excellent student and athlete. While she was a player, she had the opportunity to play for a coach with a lot of passion and desire. Reaves was Charbonneau's assistant coach at Providence.

"I knew it would be a great opportunity to work for coach Reaves. As a player, and now as a coach, I want to learn so much from her," said Charbonneau.

After watching her potential and character as a player, Reaves knew she would be great as her assistant here at Saint Leo.

"I showed interest in her as an assistant coach because I know her capabilities," Reaves said. "She was a great player at Providence, and I know she has the same desire and will to win that I do."

Charbonneau has confidence that she will be a great addition to the women's program. She hopes to bring energy and enthusiasm to the team.

"Coach Reaves and I have the same system when it comes to strategy. Hopefully we can win a lot more games than Saint Leo ever has in the past. And also become a better team," Charbonneau said.

The men's and women's programs each have a real advantage because the head and assistant coaches have already had the opportunity to work together. After working side by side in the past, the coaches know each other's strengths and will have no problem building successful teams.

WRIGHT ADDS PUNCH TO WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM

BY WALT RIDDLE
Sports Information Director

Overlooked.

Not by her teammates and the Saint Leo University women's soccer team coaching staff.

In another time, sophomore midfielder Sarah Wright of Clearwater, FL would be receiving a great deal of publicity, but playing with freshman forward sensation Casie Poyssick of Land O'Lakes, FL has taken the majority of the spotlight away from her.

Poyssick leads the 7-2-1 Lions in all offensive departments with 39 points on 17 goals and five assists. She also has been SSC offensive player-of-the-week twice.

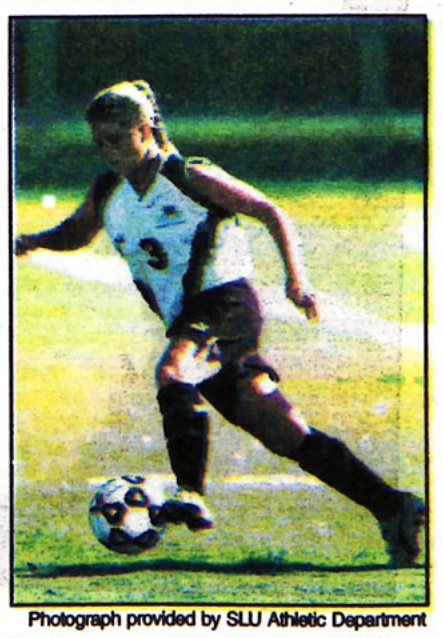
Wright, on the other hand, just keeps working hard, and her performance game in and game out has been outstanding. After scoring three goals and adding one assist for seven points as a freshman starter last season, Wright has elevated her game in 2003.

Heading into Tuesday's match against outside foe Palm Beach Atlantic, Wright had seven goals and two assists for a total of 16 points.

Wright added an insurance goal for the Lions to help her team defeat SSC foe Florida Southern College 3-1. The team now stands 2-1 in league play.

"She has played great this year," said Saint Leo Coach Tony Paris. "Her level of play has increased a great deal from last year, which is a transition year from high school. She gives us another offensive weapon."

Wright's two big matches this year included a hat trick (three goals) in an 8-1 win over Fontbonne University and the team's only score in a 1-1 tie with Alabama-Huntsville.



Photograph provided by SLU Athletic Department

Sophomore midfielder Sarah Wright